

**U.S. Application No. 10/805,869
AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**

REMARKS

Applicants submit that the presently amended claims define an invention that is patentable over the prior art.

The amendments are supported by the specification. The amendment of Claim 1 is supported by the application at page 6, line 27. The amendment of Claim 4 is supported by the application at page 11, lines 4-5. Claims 8 and 9 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The amendment of Claim 1 distinguishes the prior art. The Office Action relies on Stevens, U.S. Patent No. 3,633,751, which teaches that "flaps or tongues 14 are free to move" (column 6, lines 12-13). This is critical to using "backflow" to backwash and release any residue that may become trapped in the filter (column 1, lines 44-46). The microimpactors of the present invention are rigid and fixed; they are not free to move. The claims have been amended to recite this structure of the invention, by the addition of the limitation that the microimpactors are in the "plane" of the microimpactor sheet. Stevens teaches away from the presently claimed invention, because Stevens teaches flaps or tongues that are free to move, not rigid.


Applicants solicit an allowance of all claims.

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Respectfully submitted,



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